

VISIT...

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Museum Adventures

Gabriel Berman • Illustrated by Ronald Lipking



Benchmark Book



Fiction
The Riddle



Nonfiction
Two Museums, Two Days

Level N

Fantasy

Personal Narrative

Reading Characteristics

- Average sentence length: 13 words
- Interest level is intermediate/middle school
- Concepts well outside child's experience
- Interpretation of characters' motives required
- Suspense and irony introduced
- Interpretation of illustrations and photographs required

Nonfiction Features

- Sidebar
- Map
- Table
- Floor Plan
- Satellite Image
- Glossary

Literacy by Design Benchmark Book: *Museum Adventures*

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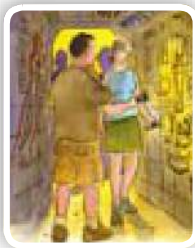
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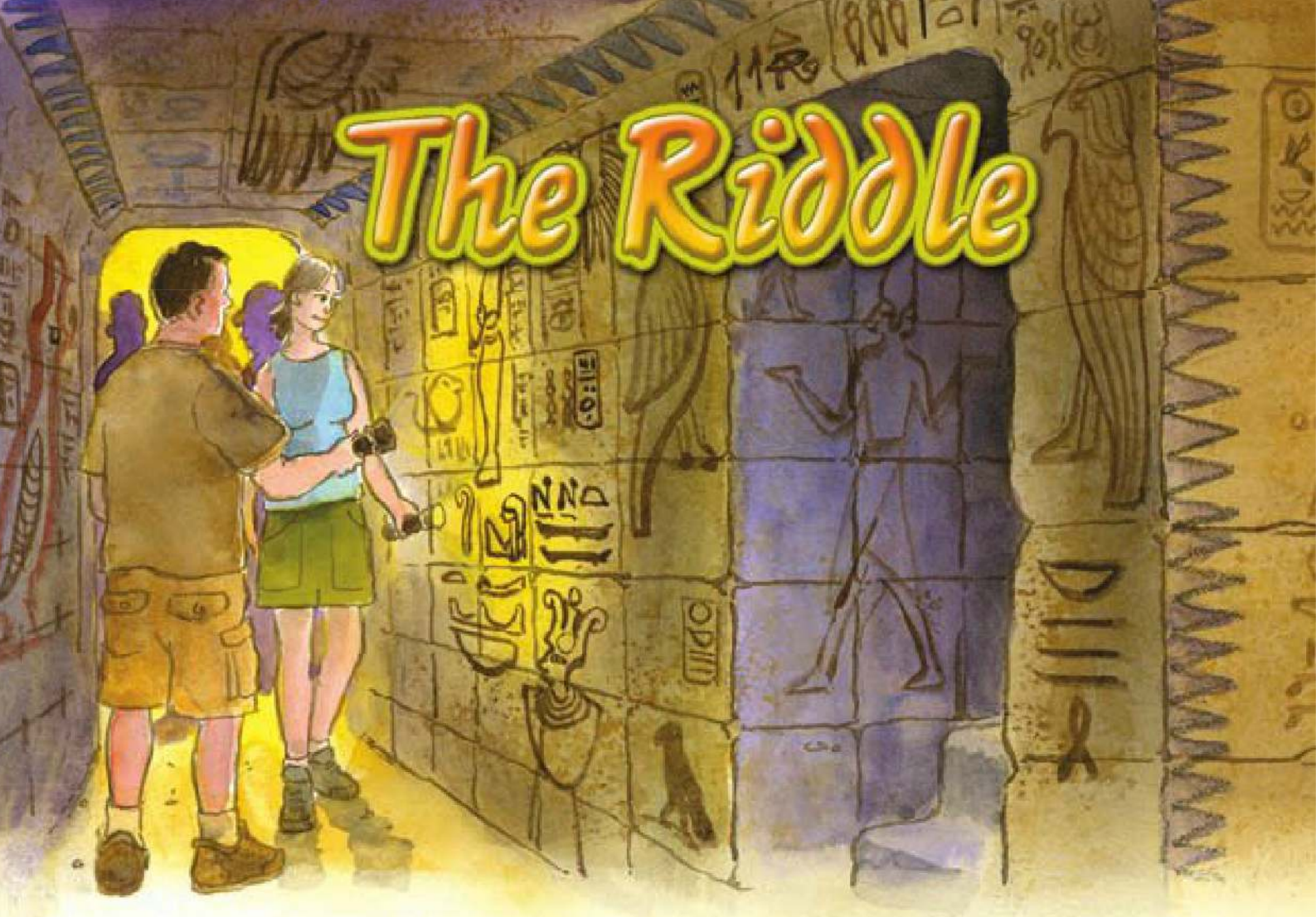
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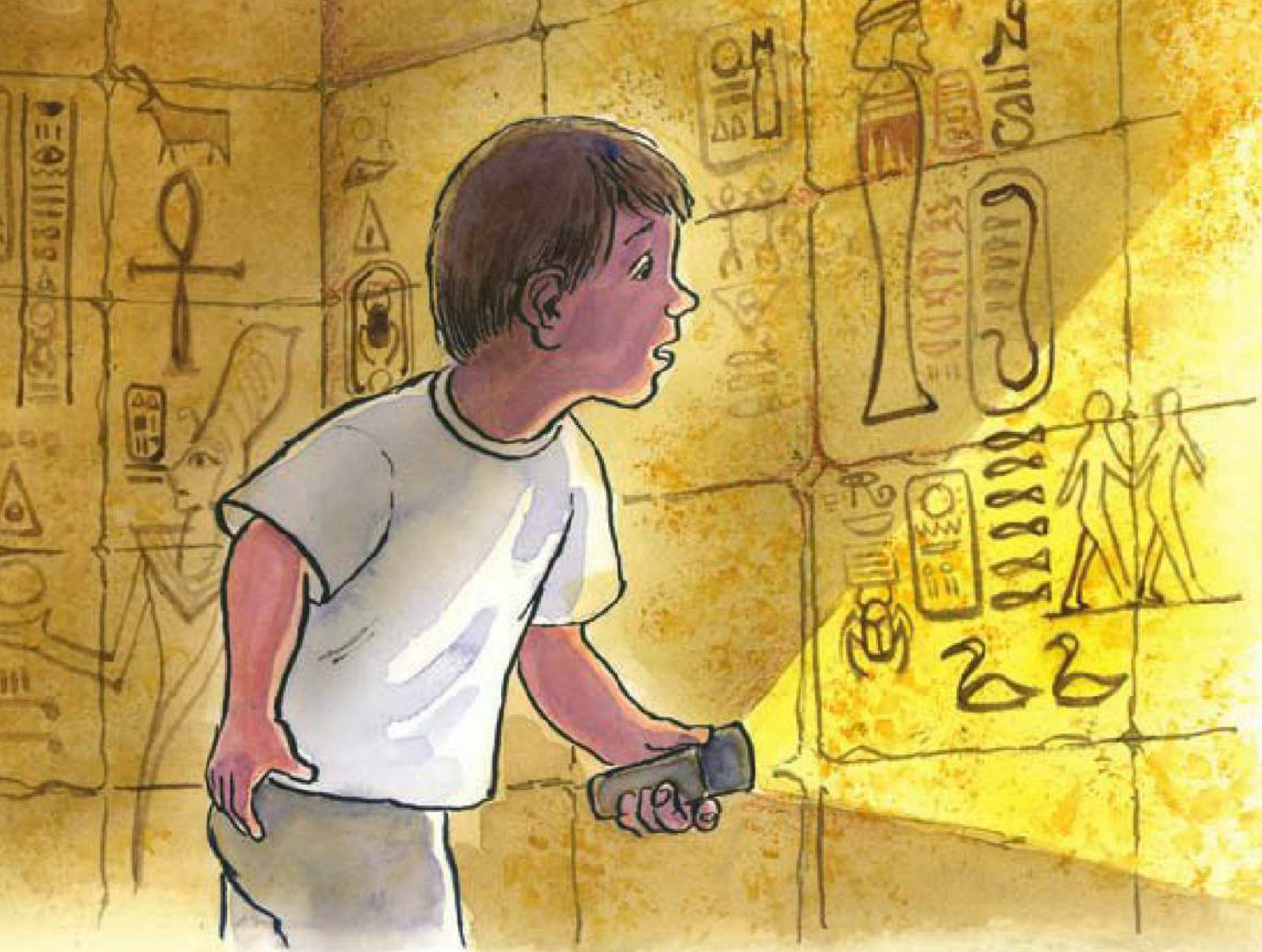
Two Museums, Two Days14



"Hurry up, James!" said Dad. "Our tour group is leaving the pyramid. It's time for us to go."

"But Dad, we haven't seen a mummy yet," replied James.

"There are no mummies inside the pyramids. Everything was taken from them years ago," Dad said.



"Are you serious? I was hoping we would see some mummies today!" replied James.

"Sorry James, there will be no mummies today," said Mom.

"This is the worst vacation ever," thought James. "The pyramids are cool, but I didn't get to see any mummies! That is not cool."

As they walked down the dark hall, their flashlights bounced off the walls, showing ancient writing and pictures. James stared at the wall. He could see a faint picture of a cat.



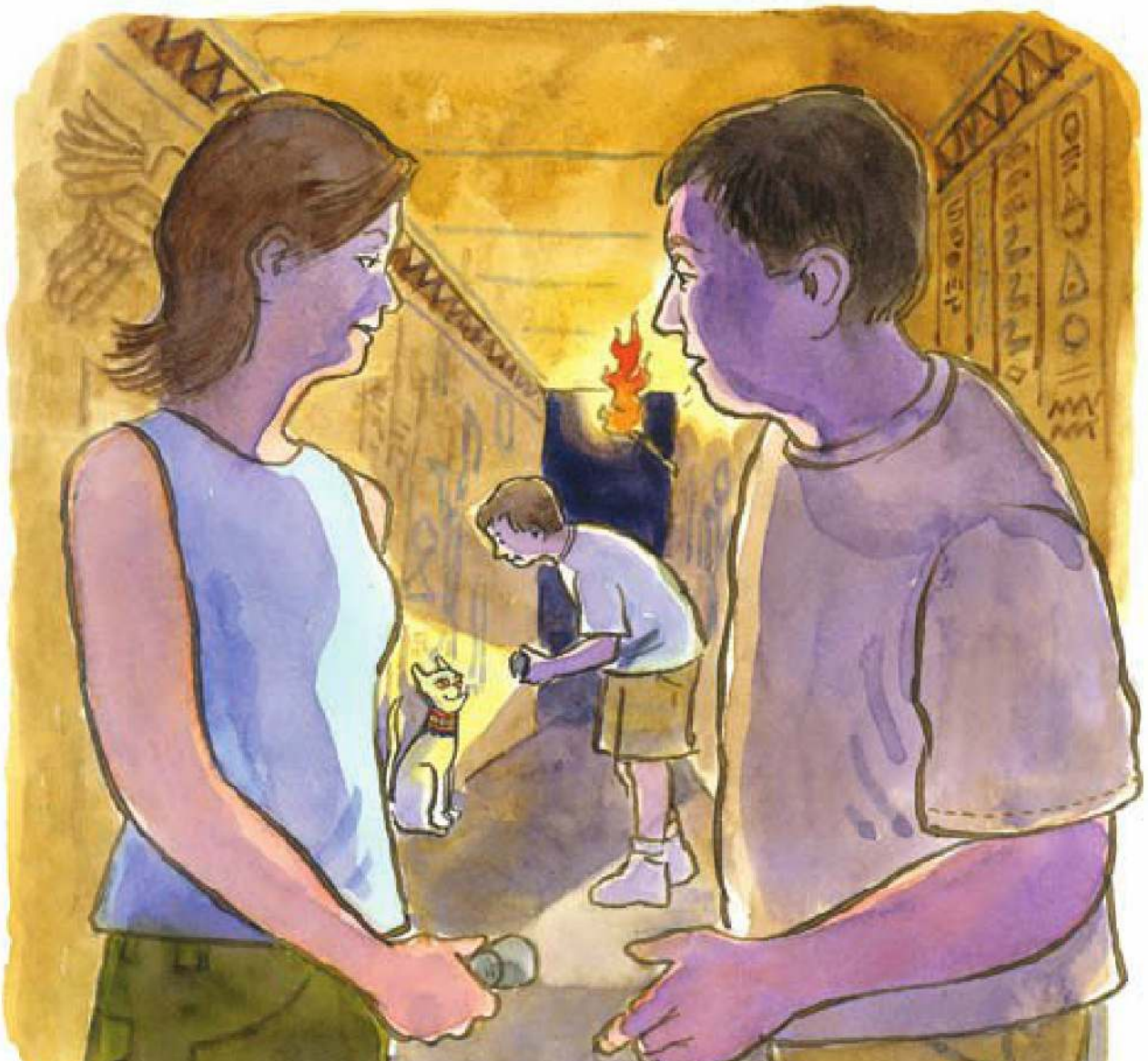


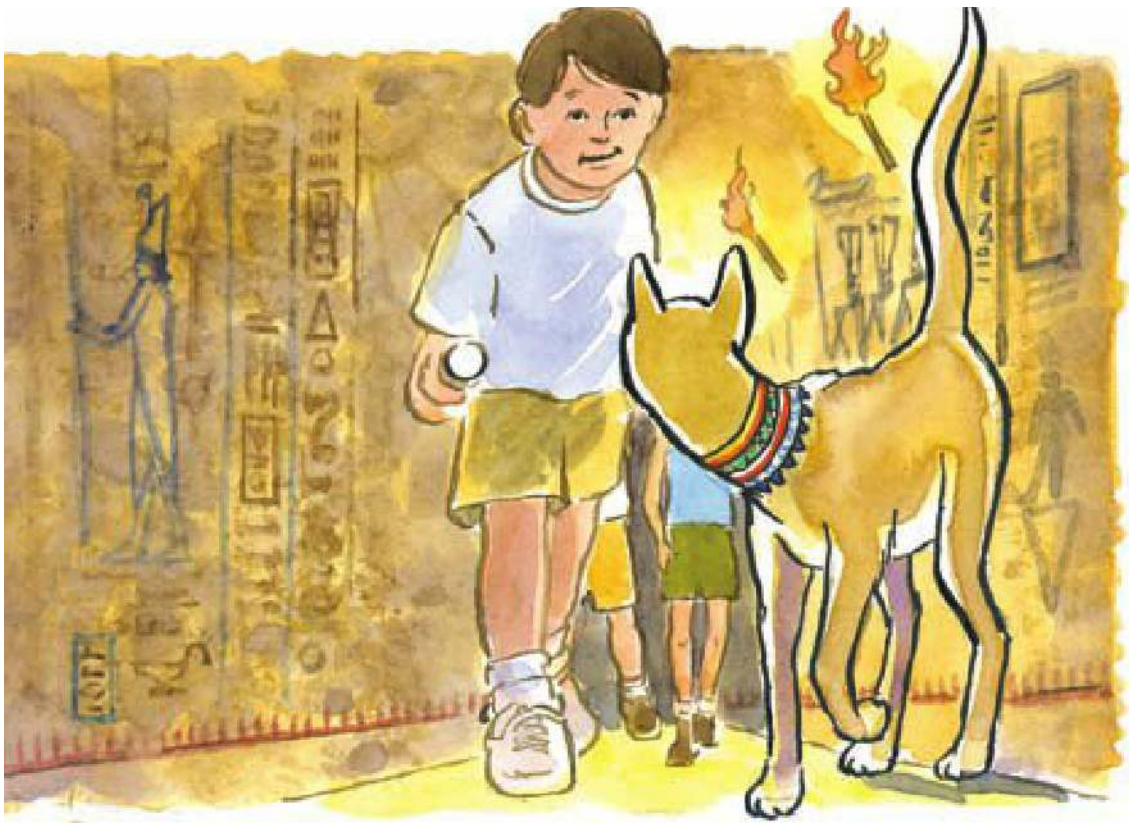
James looked closer at the picture. The cat had an Egyptian necklace and big eyes. And one of the eyes was winking at him! Just for fun, James winked back.

Suddenly, light poured into the pyramid! The cat from the picture sprang to life, jumped off the wall, and was now sitting in front of them!

"Where did that cat come from?" asked Mom as she turned toward the light.

"It's the cat from the picture on the wall!" exclaimed James.





“Meeeoow,” said the cat.

As it began walking away, the cat looked over its shoulder and nodded its head at Mom, Dad, and James.

“I think it wants us to follow it,” said James.

“I don’t know,” said Mom. “We’ll get separated from our group.”

“Please,” James begged.

Dad looked at Mom, and she nodded her head yes.

They followed the purring cat. Soon, the hallway split into two staircases. One went up and the other went down.

"Which way do we go?" asked Dad.

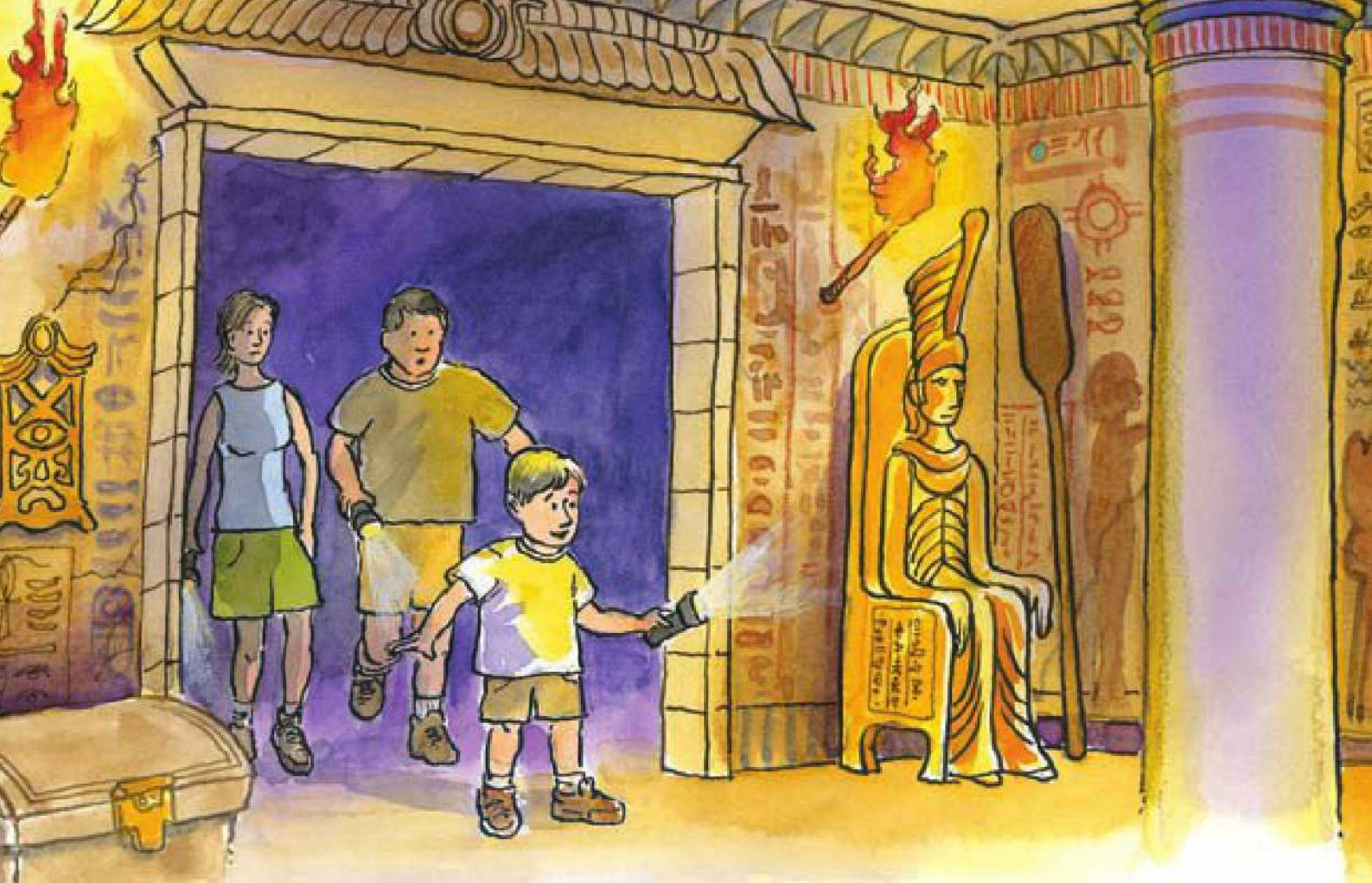
As if to answer Dad, the cat jumped up onto the first step of the staircase.

"Up it is," said Dad.





The cat took them up a steep staircase and through the most amazing rooms James had ever seen! There were unbelievable drawings and writing on all of the walls, piles of treasures in every corner, and in the middle of the last room, they saw the coolest thing of all!

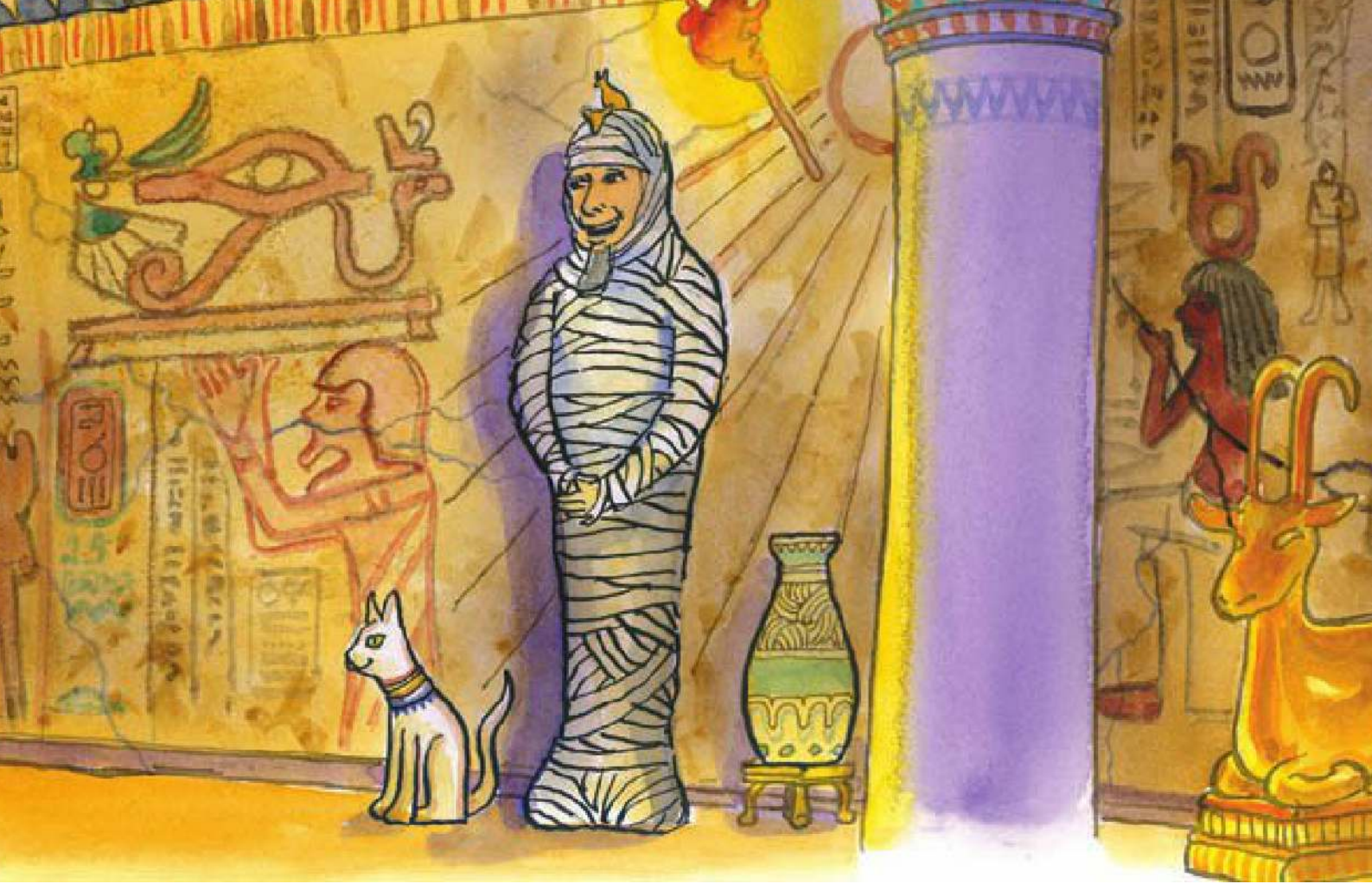


"A mummy!" James shouted.

"Hello, James! Welcome to my pyramid!" said the mummy. "Are you having fun?"

James couldn't believe his eyes! Standing there in the middle of the room was the mummy he had always wanted to see, and it was asking *him* if he was having fun!

"I sure am," replied James. "Are you a real mummy?"



"Of course I am!" said the mummy. "This pyramid is my home. My friends put all of my things in here with me so I would have everything I could ever need. I had very good friends."

"This pyramid is supposed to be empty," said Mom. "What's going on? How can we get back to our group?"

"I'd like to help, but now that you've found me, you'll have to solve my riddle. Once you do, you'll be able to return to your group," replied the mummy.

"We're ready!" said James.

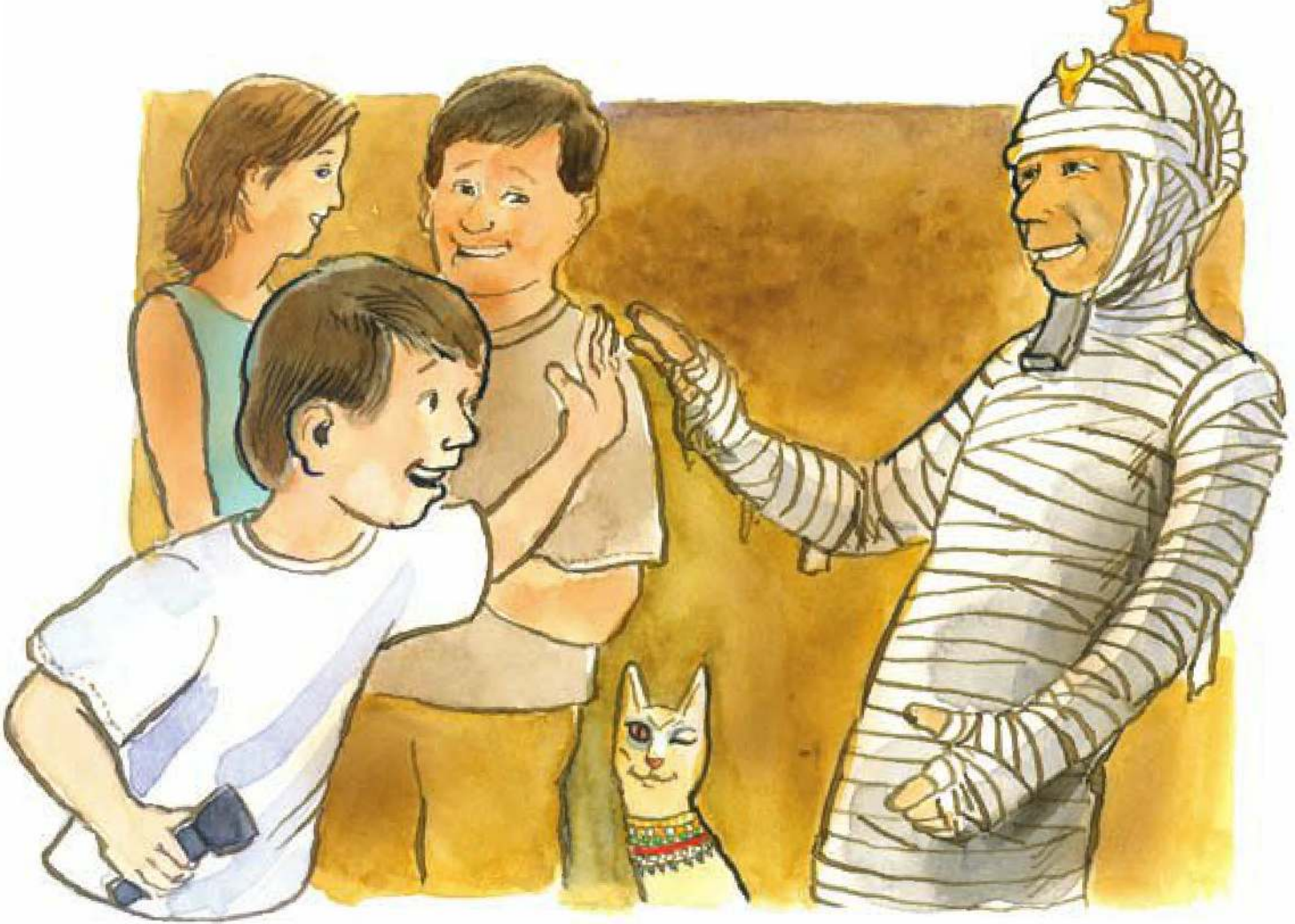
"Where can you find something old, something new, something borrowed, and something cool?" asked the mummy.

James and his parents were puzzled.

"Is it this pyramid?" asked James. "It's old and we're new. You and your cat are really cool. Did you borrow something we don't know about?"

"Good guess, but that's not right. Here's a hint," replied the mummy. "You don't find mummies in pyramids anymore. You find them in . . ."





"Museums!" shouted James.

"Correct! Museums have old things, new things, borrowed things, and cool things. When you get home, go to a museum," said the mummy.

"Will we see more mummies there?" asked James.

"Of course you will," said the cat, giving James a wink.

Two Museums, Two Days

My family had so much fun on our trip to Boston, Massachusetts! We saw a Red Sox game at Fenway Park and rode the Swan Boats in the Public Gardens. We even saw part of a great play on the Boston Common. Best of all, we went to two museums in two days!

A young girl with dark hair and a thoughtful expression is looking upwards. The background is a satellite map of Boston, Massachusetts, showing the city's layout, water bodies, and surrounding areas. A thought bubble is positioned above her head, containing the text "What did I like best about Boston?".

What did I like best about Boston?

Boston, Massachusetts,
from space

PLACES IN BOSTON



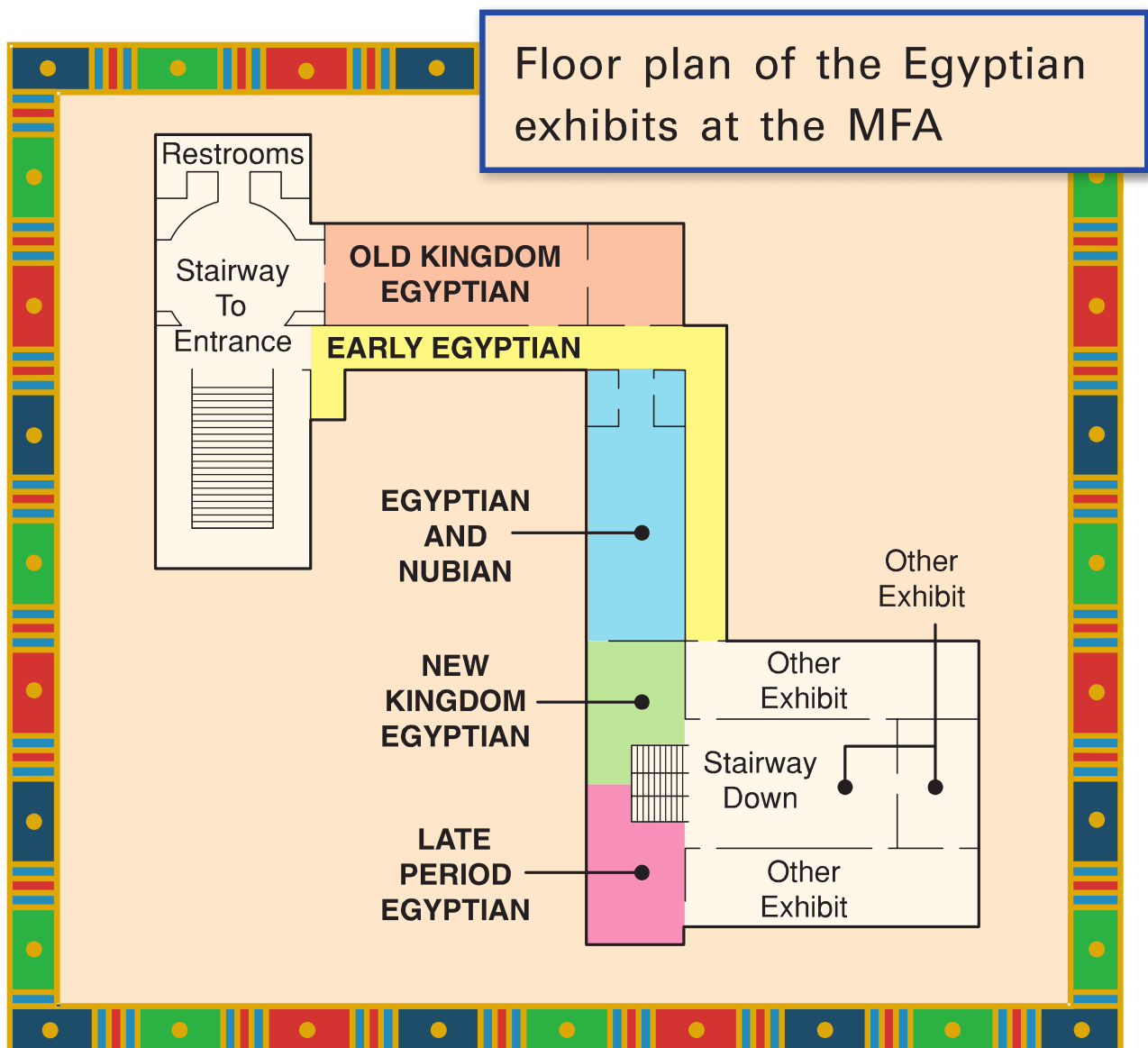
Mummies Rule!



I wasn't very excited about the first museum. It's called the Museum of Fine Arts, or the MFA, for short. "Fine Arts" sounded way too boring to me, but Mom and Dad were dying to go. So what could I do?

Guess what? It turned out to be great. Mom and Dad know I'm interested in **mummies**, so they took me to see some **Egyptian** art.

It's a big museum, so it took us some time to find the right section. We had a **floor plan** that showed the museum's **layout**, but it was a little hard to follow. Mom and Dad showed me how you can break the map up into smaller parts. That made it easier to read.



Finally we made it to the Egyptian art. I could have stared at the mummies for hours. They are sort of creepy, but they are also amazing.

The **exhibit** had other things from **ancient** Egypt, too. Lots of them were delicate and precious. There was beautiful gold jewelry and statues of ancient kings and queens. But I still think the mummies were the best!



There was so much more to see, but my legs were tired. Mom and Dad said we could come back next time we visit Boston. I have a whole list of other exhibits to visit!

Here are a few things I learned about mummies:

- Mummies can be little! That's because people used to be shorter than we are now.
- Mummies were wrapped in long strips of cloth called linen. It took hundreds of yards of fabric to wrap one mummy.
- The Egyptians made some animals into mummies, too.
- The Egyptians placed mummies in cases that were painted with colorful decorations.



Kids Rule, Too!

The next day, we went to the Boston Children's Museum. I was excited about this one from the start because some of my friends had gone there already. They all said it was really fun, and they were right!

The Children's Museum is smaller than the MFA, but everywhere you turn, there's something fun to do. It's not a place where you only look at exhibits. You can touch them, too. You can learn a lot, but you can also play, build, and even climb.



There was a place to do science experiments and a room where you could build things. There was also an art room where you could get really messy. (And I did.) There was even a Hall of Toys. This exhibit had hundreds of dolls and some amazing dollhouses.





My favorite part of the museum was the climbing walls. I tried on a lot of equipment, learned how to tie rock-climbing knots, and then actually climbed! I admit I was a little bit scared, but it was so cool.

I think I did just about everything there was to do at the Children's Museum, but I want to go back and do it all again. It was a great adventure!

Comparing My Visits

The two museums I visited were so different from each other. Here are just a few of the ways:

Museum of Fine Arts



so big we got lost



lots of grown-up stuff, but plenty for kids, too



only looking at exhibits, no touching



Children's Museum



just the right size to see in an afternoon



all the stuff here for kids



can play with almost everything



I loved the two museums we visited.
Mom and Dad said we can come back to
Boston soon. I wonder if we can squeeze
in *three* museums next time. I've heard the
Museum of Science is pretty great, too!



Glossary

ancient something from a very long time ago

Egyptian from Egypt, a country in Africa

exhibit show

floor plan a map of rooms in a building

layout how rooms or parts are arranged in a building

mummies dead bodies that are wrapped up for protection





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